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Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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O 232232Z JUN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 147387

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA, US

SUBJECT: FUTURE RELATIONS WITH PGNU

REFS: A. VIENTIANE 4450; B. VIENTIANE 4375

1. FOLLOWING IS THINKING HERE AND INSTRUCTIONS IN RESPONSE TO REFTELS AND RELATED ACTIONS.

2. AS YOU ARE ALREADY AWARE, POLICY DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH LAOS AT A MODEST LEVEL BUT WITH NO ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID IN THE FORE-SEEABLE FUTURE. OUR MOST IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE IS TO REDUCE MISSION STAFF TO POINT WHERE WE CAN PURSUE THIS POLICY WITH NUMBER OF PERSONNEL SUBJECT TO HARASSMENT AT MINIMUM LEVEL.

3. WE RECOGNIZE THAT WITH VARIOUS MATTERS SUCH AS FEOF, MAP RICE DELIVERIES, AND USAID TERMINATION BRINGING THINGS RAPIDLY TO A HEAD, YOU WILL NEED SOME TACTICAL FLEXIBILITY IN CARRYING OUT ABOVE POLICY. IN THIS REGARD, WE ARE SEND-
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ING SEPARATE INSTRUCTIONS RE FEOF AND MAP RICE WHICH WE HOPE WILL GIVE YOU SOME ELBOW ROOM. IN SUM, YOU WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO MAINTAIN RICE SHIPMENTS FOR A BRIEF TRANSI-TIONAL PERIOD AND AUTHORIZED TO SIGN A FEOF AGREEMENT WITH-

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OUT FURTHER COMMITMENT OF US FUNDS.

4. RE USAID TERMINATION, WE SHARE YOUR ASSUMPTION REF A THAT SATISFACTORY RESPONSE FROM PGNU WILL NOT BE RECEIVED IN TIMELY FASHION AND THAT THEREFORE ORDERLY TERMINATION IS NOT POSSIBLE. WE SEE NO NEED TO DELAY FURTHER THE ABANDONMENT OF USAID PROPERTY. REMAINING USAID PERSONNEL SHOULD DEPART IMMEDIATELY, OR YOU CAN KEEP ONE OR TWO BEHIND AS NECESSARY UNTIL JUNE 30.

5. ALTHOUGH OUR ACTIONS MAY MAKE INCREASINGLY CLEAR TO PGNU OUR DECISION TO TERMINATE ALL ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID, WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT WISH TO INFORM THE LAO OF OUR DECISION. WE WILL KEEP THIS OPEN AFTER MINIMAL STAFFING LEVEL OF MISSION AT ABOUT 30 HAS BEEN REACHED, HOPEFULLY WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS. THEREFORE, YOU SHOULD DELIVER FOLLOWING NOTE TO PGNU AT SUCH TIME AS YOU BELIEVE DESIRABLE. BEGIN QUOTE

A. THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION OF LAOS AND HAS THE HONOR TO NOTE THAT THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS NOT RESPONDED TO EMBASSY NOTE NO. 293 AND THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE TERMINATION OF THE MISSION OF THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID), AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO ON MAY 27, 1975, HAVE NOT PROCEEDED IN A MANNER WHICH WILL PERMIT BILATERAL RESOLUTION OF THE ATTENDANT PROBLEMS BY JUNE 30, THE TIME LIMIT SPECIFIED IN THAT AGREEMENT.

B. THEREFORE, IN LIGHT OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND IN ORDER TO MEET OUR COMMITMENT TO WITHDRAW OUR AID MISSION BY JUNE 30, THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ADVISE THE MINISTRY THAT AS OF THIS DATE THE USAID MISSION TO LAOS HAS BEEN TERMINATED AND ITS REMAINING PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO DEPART THE COUNTRY IMMEDIATELY. THE MINISTRY

IS ALSO NOTIFIED THAT USAID HEREBY RELINQUISHES TO THE PGNU CONTROL OF ALL US GOVERNMENT EQUIPMENT AND PROPERTY IN LAOS PERTAINING TO THE AID PROGRAM. WE CONSIDER THAT THIS PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT ARE NOW UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE PGNU. ALL QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO AID SHOULD HENCEFORTH BE DIRECTED TO THE EMBASSY WHICH WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THEM WITH THE PGNU. END QUOTE.

6. WHILE WE APPRECIATE THINKING BEHIND YOUR PROPOSED TEXT IN REF B, WE FEEL THAT TEXT SHOULD BE LIMITED TO SIMPLY INFORMING PGNU OF ABANDONMENT OF USAID PROPERTY WITHOUT COMMITTING OURSELVES UNNECESSARILY TO FURTHER FRUITLESS NEGOTIATIONS AND WITHOUT ATTEMPTING FURTHER

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TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PROJECT AND NON-PROJECT PROPERTY,

GIVEN HIGHLY UNLIKELY RECOVERY OF EITHER. IF NECESSARY WE CAN BROACH THESE ISSUES LATER WITH PGNU IN CONTEXT OF WHAT WILL BE ESSENTIALLY NEW BASIS OF OUR RELATIONS WITH LAOS FOLLOWING USAID TERMINATION. INGERSOLL

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